



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Canandaigua/Rochester VAMC

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Academic Year (AY) 2010

Pharmacy VA Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR) Program

BACKGROUND:

The program provides opportunities for outstanding students to develop competencies in pharmacy practice while working at an approved VA healthcare facility. Opportunities for learning include didactic or classroom experiences, competency-based clinical practice with a qualified pharmacist preceptor, and participation in pharmacy practice conferences. Students recruited for the program must have completed the third professional year (or equivalent in year round programs) of education at an Accreditation Council of Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE) accredited School or College of Pharmacy. Students may be appointed on a full or part-time basis during the summer months and may continue during their final academic year on a part-time basis. The aggregate hours that a student may be funded will in the program is 800 hours.

Program Overview:

VALOR students will have opportunities to gain practice experience in the following areas of Pharmacy Practice:

Canandaigua Inpatient Pharmacy (dispensing): Inpatient pharmacy provides coverage M-F 8-6 and is responsible for the pharmaceutical needs of our inpatients in the long-term care facility in Canandaigua, in addition to the needs of patients administered medications in our clinic areas within the Medical Center. A BCMA medication administration system is supported by robotic, unit-dose cart fill in addition to point-of-care automated dispensing units. A USP 797 compliant IV Admixture program provides all compounded parenteral admixtures for both inpatients and clinic use. Pharmacists provide order review and verification, drug information services, therapeutic drug monitoring and antibiotic utilization services

Canandaigua/Rochester Outpatient Pharmacy (dispensing): Outpatient pharmacy provides prescriptions services through an on-site dispensing pharmacy at both the Canandaigua and Rochester Divisions as well as through a Consolidated Mail-out

Program (CMOP). The pharmacies employ state-of-the-art P2000 robotic dispensing and provide individualized patient counseling on all new prescriptions dispensed. The average wait time for an outpatient prescription at the window is 17 minutes.

Clinical Pharmacy Programs:

Primary Care: four Clinical Pharmacy Specialists provide pharmacotherapy consult and drug information services essential to excellent patient care for our outpatients in Primary Care. They are available on a consult basis to primary care as well as any other medical service. The Clinical Pharmacy Specialists are involved in hypertension, lipid, diabetes, and pain, formulary compliance, and initiatives to improve patient compliance with pharmacotherapy.

Lipid: The Lipid Clinic is a pharmacist managed clinic providing treatment for more complicated hyperlipidemia management.

Consulting (LTC): Consultant pharmacy services for both long-term care patients and patients managed in the Home-based Primary Care Program (HBPC) are provided by Certified Long-term Care Consultant Pharmacists at the Canandaigua and Rochester sites.

Mental Health: A variety of both inpatient and outpatient pharmaceutical services are provided by the Mental Health Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. The Mental Health Clinical Pharmacy Specialist functions in a multidisciplinary team environment and is involved in inpatient pharmacotherapy management, in an outpatient clinic managing long-acting anti-psychotic medications, and in a clinic ensuring medication compliance for recently discharged mental health patients.

Medication Reconciliation: A pharmacist works with the medical team to provide continuity of care/medication reconciliation for patients at admission and discharge from the medical center.

Formulary Management: The Canandaigua VAMC/Rochester Outpatient Clinic reviews all non-formulary requests locally totaling 300-450/month for both sites.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Students must have:

- (1) A minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;
Note: The GPA must be computed on their professional training in the School or College of Pharmacy, or for work accepted for credit towards the pharmacy degree. While a student may have a grade below "B" in a pharmacy course, the cumulative GPA for the core pharmacy courses may not be less than a 3.0. Only data on official transcripts will be used to determine grade qualifications.
- (2) Be able to complete a minimum of 400 hours as a Pharmacy VALOR student in a VA facility (with the noted exception). Appointment as a

VALOR student will be from 3 to 12 months, with a usual minimum requirement of 400 hours. If affiliating schools curriculum does not allow a summer appointment of 10 weeks at 40 hours per week the facility may elect to request less than 400 hours.

- (3) Be a United States citizen and meet physical examination standards at the time of entry in the Pharmacy VALOR program.

NOTE: Students with a service obligation to any Federal, State, or private Institution, or recipients of any Federal scholarships are ineligible for the Pharmacy VALOR Program.

How to Apply: Application Deadline is 2/28/10

- (1) Submit an Application for Federal Employment and an updated CV/Resume, to the VA Canandaigua VAMC Fort Hill Rd, Canandaigua, NY 14424 to be considered for the VALOR program.
- (2) Submit a letter from the Dean/Director of School or College of Pharmacy to the Chief, Pharmacy Services (David I. Robbins). *Note: The letter should include the following: a nomination of the student to the program; verification of enrollment as a full-time student (as defined by the school); successful completion of the second year of pharmacy education (minimally fourth year of college education) by May/June 2010; and anticipated graduation within two years after entry into the Pharmacy VALOR Program.*
- (3) Submit an official transcript from the school or college of pharmacy.
- (4) Upon notification of selection as a VALOR student, by the local VA Healthcare Facility, the candidate must confirm acceptance with the VA Healthcare Facility so that the employment process may be initiated.

APPOINTMENT AND PAY:

- a. VALOR program students will be appointed under 38 U.S.C. 7405(a)(1)(D) at a per annum training rate equal to 80 percent of the actual salary rate in effect on Feb. 1, 2010 for Pharmacist GS-9, Step 1, at the facility. Currently =~\$17.50/hr. Students appointed in fiscal year 2010 and who continue in the VALOR program in calendar year 2010 will be paid at the rate established for calendar year 2010.

Contact Information:

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